

**REMARKS**

As indicated above, this is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned Rule 1.53(b) Divisional application of U.S. Serial No. **10/315,929**. This Preliminary Amendment is concurrently filed with the Rule 1.53(b) Divisional application.

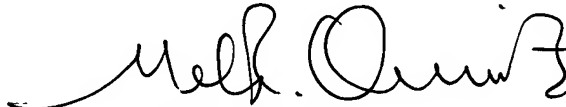
Claims 1-6 remain in this application. Claims 7-20 have been canceled.

The above amendments are believed to place the in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,  
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Mel R. Quintos  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 31,898

MRQ/lrj  
Atty. Docket No. **021557A**  
Suite 1000  
1725 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE